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NFL YEAR BEGINS

Former Super Bowl-winning quarterback Nick Foles reportedly is dealt to Bears as player moves start.



STEPHEN B. MORTON AP

LOCAL

Fort Worth school is first to move classes online 7A



Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Fort Worth, Tarrant issue stricter coronavirus rules

BY LUKE RANKER
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FORT WORTH
Fort Worth and Tarrant County officials on Wednesday escalated their efforts to curb the

spread of the novel coronavirus, falling closer in line with federal guidelines established days ago. Mayor Betsy Price, Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams and Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley announced that all bars, lounges, taverns, private clubs, thea-

ters, gyms, and other amusement businesses must close. Gatherings are capped at 50 people and restaurants, craft breweries, distilleries and wineries must switch to takeout or delivery. Total building capacity limits

remain at half of the regular capacity or no more than 125 people for event centers, hotel ballrooms and meeting rooms, retail establishments, convenience stores, plazas, churches, mall common areas and individual businesses in malls.

These restrictions do not apply to grocery stores, government buildings, offices, medical facilities, day cares, homeless or emergency shelters, airports or manufacturing facilities. "These are mandatory. They are not recommendations," Price said. "Nothing we have done has been done lightly." The restrictions go into effect at midnight. The change in policy also extends Tarrant County's declaration of local disaster for 90 days. A similar declaration in Fort Worth will

SEE CORONAVIRUS, 3A



Texas Gov. Greg Abbott talks to Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley following a press conference on Wednesday in Arlington concerning coronavirus.

Abbott may enact restaurant, bar restrictions to battle virus

BY ANNA M. TINSLEY
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ARLINGTON
Texas Gov. Greg Abbott may announce plans to shut down bars and restaurants, following

the lead of elected officials across the county, in an effort to slow down the spread of the coronavirus. He traveled to Arlington on Wednesday, in the wake of the county's first coronavirus death: 77-year-old Patrick James, a

resident of the Texas Masonic Retirement Center in Arlington. Abbott said he will make an announcement Thursday regarding a statewide shutdown of restaurants and businesses. Other states have done so, but Abbott has been reluctant to do

so because he wanted to leave those decisions up to local officials. "It is clear that this spread is occurring across the entire state of Texas," Abbott said during an afternoon press conference at the Arlington Emergency Management office. He said that the number of cases have doubled in Texas since last week, when he issued a statewide disaster declaration, which authorizes a variety of

SEE GOVERNOR, 3A

Residents of retirement center to be virus tested

BY ANNA M. TINSLEY
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ARLINGTON
Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Wednesday announced that everyone at the Texas Masonic Retirement Center, where the first Tarrant County resident died from COVID-19, will be tested for the coronavirus. "This is a heartbreaking death," Abbott said during an afternoon press conference at the Arlington Emergency Management office. The governor said he has talked to the White House and vice president's office about the death of Patrick James. Among the next steps at the center: test all 177 residents there for coronavirus, limit visitors to the center, determine who James and his wife have had contact with and make sure those people are tested, and limit movement within the center. "No one knows who has exposure," Abbott said. By the time Abbott arrived in Arlington, an additional 2,500 test kits had already arrived to help with the local testing. Center officials said they will cooperate with any testing that the state wishes to do but that as of Wednesday afternoon, no testing had taken place. Patrick James, 77, was admitted to Arlington Memorial Hospital on March 10 and was tested for the coronavirus on Saturday, according to Shelley Brandt, his daughter-in-law. He died Sunday and his family found out Tuesday that he had tested positive for the coronavirus, Brandt told the Star-Telegram. Patrick James had previously seen a doctor and believed he might be suffering with the flu, but tests for the flu and strep throat were negative, Brandt said. Patrick James was diagnosed with double pneumonia after being hospitalized, Brandt said. COVID-19 can lead to pneumonia. "He (Patrick James) passed away shortly after midnight on Sunday," Brandt said. While in the hospital, Patrick James was in isolation in the intensive care unit, she said. His wife has experi-

Trump invokes emergency authority; Big 3 automakers closing

BY TIM SULLIVAN
AND DAVID RISING
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS
President Donald Trump on Wednesday moved to invoke emergency authority to marshal industry to fight the coronavirus, as the economic fallout from the crisis mounted with word that nearly the entire U.S. auto industry is shutting down its North American factories to protect workers.

On a day of head-spinning developments:

- Stocks tumbled again on

Wall Street on fears of a prolonged recession, falling so fast they triggered another automatic trading halt. The Dow Jones Industrial Average shed more than 1,300 points, or over 6 percent, and has now lost nearly all of the big gains it had posted since Trump's inauguration. Oil

dropped below \$21 per barrel for the first time since 2002.

- More borders slammed shut across Europe and North America, with the U.S. and Canada closing their boundary to all but essential travel and Trump saying he plans to assert extraordinary powers to immediately turn back to Mexico anyone who crosses over the southern border illegally.
- The White House pressed

SEE TRUMP, 3A



BONUS CONTENT TAKING CARE DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

For up-to-date news and cancellations, visit [Star-Telegram.com](#). For information on what you need to know to take care of yourself and others during this pandemic, including what it's like to have coronavirus and what you need if you are quarantined, go to the Coronavirus section of your eEdition, available behind the local sections, at [Star-Telegram.com/eedition](#).

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